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Chicopee Police Department Launches Community Connect Program



Residents and businesses in Chicopee are invited to participate in this exciting new public-private crime mitigation and safety initiative

October 10, 2024 (Chicopee, Massachusetts) - The Chicopee Police Department today announced the official launch of its latest public safety initiative–a Real Time Crime Center in the Cloud platform designed to provide critical and actionable information that speeds up investigations and emergency response and keeps residents and businesses safer. Powered by Fusus, the new platform includes a camera registry–an online portal for citizens to register their security cameras in order to help solve crimes in the community. The Chicopee Police Department is hoping that citizens will register their cameras and help create a community-wide public safety ecosystem.

"Everybody knows that public safety is paramount to the success of Chicopee, and we believe that this tool will keep Chicopee even safer." said Mayor John Vieau."

By setting up a voluntary camera registration process, the need for door-to-door canvassing is eliminated and valuable time can be used elsewhere. The Chicopee Police Department is enabling their investigators to know almost immediately if video evidence might be available at a particular location and who to contact to retrieve it. Registering a camera with the Chicopee Police Department is quickly and easily done through the self-service portal at (**www.connectchicopee.org**)

Both residential and commercial property owners and businesses are invited to register their security cameras. Registrant information and any video files provided will be kept confidential and only used in the event of a criminal investigation or emergency incident.

Camera registration does not give live video access to the Chicopee Police Department. It only gives them camera location information for use when an incident occurs. Investigators will contact camera owners only if they need assistance collecting camera footage. In the event of a theft for example, police may request from a store owner a recorded video to quicken the process of evidence gathering.

“Fusus is going to allow the Chicopee Police Department to operate more efficiently, effectively and with improved operational intelligence.” said Eric Watson, Deputy Chief of the Chicopee Police Department. “Connected communities are safer communities.”

In addition to the camera registry, the Chicopee Police Department is offering residents the option to upgrade their video security systems to include live video feeds to the department. By installing a small CORE device on their network, residents and businesses can share live video feeds with the Chicopee Police Department in emergencies to improve employee safety and police response. To preserve privacy, live video can optionally be shared only on alert, using a smartphone app or manual trigger button, at the camera owner’s discretion. This upgrade can be requested following the camera registration process online.

In order to help members of the community register their cameras as part of this voluntary program, the Chicopee Police Department will also be conducting a community outreach program by phone. Community Connect Advocates will be reaching out to local businesses to inform them about the program, and registering cameras over the phone if the owners wish to participate.

To register or integrate your camera system with the Chicopee Police Department or to learn more about Connect Chicopee, please visit **(www.connectchicopee.org)** and follow the instructions.